(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review these rules; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to incorporate the public views in the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS ASD PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Provision to protect consumers against sale of consumer goods in misleading packets exists under various legislations. Some of the legislations are listed below:

(1) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.

(2) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(3) The MRTP Act, 1969.

(4) The Drugs Price Control Order 1995.

(5) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) and (d) As far as Standards of weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities Rules 1977 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are concerned, which are administered by this Ministry, their review depending on the need, is a continual process. The Ministry takes into consideration public views before making amendments to any of the provisions.

The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and the General of Health Services have informed that they also take into consideration public opinion before amendingthe provision of the legislations administered by them.

Irritants for consumers despite consumer consciousness

6724. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5049 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of fast developing consumer consciousness there are certain common irritants for consumers e.g. buses plying on roads with disregard of pedestrians and road sense, sale of certain products in packets without giving any relevant details, irregular and inadequate supply of essential items through P.D.S.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove these irritants in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) The consumer movement is a continuous process and the concerned Ministries/Departments of Central and the State Governments and the voluntary consumer organisations endeavour to work in coordination with each other to remove such common irrtants to consumers. Sufficient rules and regulations are enforced by concerned Ministries/Departments to take care of many of the consumer problems such as sale of packaged commodities without giving relevant information, road safety, etc. Besides, all the State Governments and Union Territories are asked to closely monitor and ensure efficient and smooth functioning of public distribution systems. Central assistance is also provided for purchase of vans and construction of godowns to ensure regular and adequate supply of items supplied through Public Distribution Systems.